



FEDERAL HIGHWAY
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Division

CONSTRUCTION NEWSLETTER

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MEDICINE LAKE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE

MEDICINE LAKE HEADQUARTERS PARKING AREA

MONTANA REFUGE ROAD PROJECT MELA 900(1)

This week although no dirt was moved a lot of pre-work activity took place. As you might guess this project has a lot of paper work connected with it to insure it meets specification. Lets start with the testing company, which is out of North Dakota. To ensure they have the experience and knowledge to actually perform testing, the testing company submitted a record of training and certifications for each tester scheduled to provide testing. In addition they provided a list of previous jobs they had been involved with in order to establish a company record of similar testing. The contractor had the choice of whom he wished to hire. He chose Material Testing Services of Minot and Williston for the job. And from the documents submitted by the testing lab they have experience in this type of testing and quality personnel.

The first stage of work starting next week is excavation of the old pavement structure. Next will come rock to fill the 2-foot deep hole up to the bottom of the concrete slab. Several thousand cubic yards of rock are needed under the concrete and Sheridan Ready-Mix of Plentywood is supplying that. The rock will be spread into 6-inch deep layers, adding water as needed and then compacted with equipment. To ensure the layer is compacted, a test will be performed, if it meets specification, on to the next layer. This will ensure there is no soft spots under the concrete that in time could cause unwanted cracks.

Next week the contractor is planning to move in equipment and if all goes as planned will start digging. To our understanding he will have his Foreman, Richard Wilson moving into the area next week and some equipment operators. And based on earlier discussions with Richard you will likely find Richard when not working casting lures in hopes of landing that prize fish.

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